

S A M F O R D R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR 1973





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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Kathleen M Harding
MD, DPH, AKC

Medical Officer of Health

W L Brown
MRSH, MAPHI

Chief Public Health Inspector

D W J Barker
MAPHI

Deputy Chief Public Health
Inspector

J P E Rudd
ARSH, MAPHI

Additional Public Health
Inspector

J R Finch

Administrative/Technical
Assistant

G F Tyler

Pest Control Assistant

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the last Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for this Rural District.

It is not a complete record because vital statistics relating to births, deaths and causes of death will not be available until some time after this Council ceases to exist on 31st March, 1974. However it has been possible to compile other details usually given in my Annual Report, from our local records.

During the twenty years that I have served as medical officer of health to this authority many changes have taken place in the field of Public Health.

A pure and wholesome mains supply of water is now available for the majority of households. People no longer have to drink from polluted shallow wells or even ponds (as some did only a few years ago). Of course the water supplied through our mains is hard compared with the water obtained from shallow wells and some housewives have found this a disadvantage on wash day. Some of our mains supplies contain a considerable amount of iron salts in suspension which causes discolouration both of the water and of the articles washed in it. However it should be possible, in the not too distant future to treat the water in order to remove the iron in districts where this is still causing trouble. We are now assured by the best medical authorities that people who live in hard water areas are far less prone to certain diseases than those living in places where the water is soft. Once a village has been supplied with mains water, people naturally use more and then the problem arises of how to dispose of the waste water, so the provision of village sewerage schemes has been a very important function of the Council. Each scheme involved a tremendous amount of work. The area in question had to be surveyed and all its varying kinds of sanitation, or non-sanitation recorded. Consulting Engineers usually were called in to plan the sewage works and the line the sewers would take, and then the scheme had to be submitted to the County Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval. Approval by the Ministry seemed to depend on the economic state of the county at the time. If the National Economy was in a good state approval would be given fairly readily, but if one of the recurrent economic blizzards was in progress the Powers in Whitehall would decide that a local Inquiry must be held before one of their Inspectors. The Public Health Department was actively concerned in this and after giving evidence about the number of pail closets and other primitive forms of sanitation in the area we would accompany the Inspector on a tour of inspection pointing out polluted rivers and ditches and other nuisances. Then the Inspector departed and we awaited his decision. Sometimes after a wait of some weeks or even months we learnt that the scheme had been approved. On other less happy occasions, we heard, that despite our polluted rivers and ditches, the scheme had been put back for the time being.

However it is with a feeling of satisfaction that we can record that a large number of our villages now have main drainage.

Housing Inspection is a subject that has always been a most important part of the work of the Public Health Department. Following the War years, during which the building of new houses was at a standstill and repairs to existing dwellings difficult to undertake it was inevitable that many houses fell into a state of serious disrepair. Some of these could not be repaired at reasonable cost and many of the occupiers were living in conditions of extreme discomfort and privation. It was a tremendous task to carry out a detailed inspection of each house and to assess its condition and future, but although a number of houses still await action, the majority of unfit houses have been dealt with and in many cases the occupants have been re-housed. However the Housing shortage is still a very great problem and young couples, newly married or wishing to marry, have great difficulty in finding anywhere to live. This is despite the fact that this Council has built many houses, as well as bungalows; and sheltered accommodation for old people.

During the past twenty years two diseases have emerged as killers, responsible for an ever increasing number of deaths. These are Coronary heart disease, and Cancer of the lung. Experts tell us that the stress of modern living, too rich a diet, and lack of exercise are responsible for this form of heart disease, and there is no doubt that heavy cigarette smoking causes many cases of lung cancer.

The most notable achievement in the control of infectious diseases has been the conquest of Poliomyelitis. Only a few years ago it was an ever threatening menace. One never knew when or where it would strike and when it did so the younger members of society were usually its victims. They were often left with serious disablement or even death. Now as the result of poliomyelitis vaccination this disease has virtually disappeared.

These are just a few of the thoughts that come to mind when reviewing our activities and progress during past years.

The time has now come to hand on the torch to our successors, the Department of Environmental Health of the Council of Babergh. In doing so we give them our best wishes for the future in the assurance that they will carry on the traditions which we have tried to establish and the hope that their forthcoming achievements will be many.

It now only remains for me to express my appreciation to the Councillors for their support and encouragement during the past years, and to thank most warmly all officers and members of the staff for their help and co-operation; and particularly the staff of the Public Health department for their loyalty, assistance and enthusiasm in the performance of their many duties during my term of office.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

K. M. HARDING
Medical Officer of Health.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	45,029 acres
Estimated Population (Registrar General's 1973 figures)	21,430
Inhabited houses	7,206
Rateable value at 31st December	£2,518,483
Sum represented by one new penny rate	£24,240

2. NOTIFICATIONS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Excluding Tuberculosis)

Measles	59
Scarlet Fever	4
Acute Meningitis	2
Whooping Cough	1

3. TUBERCULOSIS

(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year

<u>MALES</u>		<u>FEMALES</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
13	3	4	1	21

During the year, one new case was notified (male pulmonary); two cases moved into the District (one male pulmonary and one female non-pulmonary) and one case recovered (female pulmonary).

Number of cases on Register at end of year

<u>MALES</u>		<u>FEMALES</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
15	3	3	2	23

(b) Tuberculosis Notifications during past five years

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
<u>MALE</u>					
Pulmonary	-	1	1	1	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-
<u>FEMALE</u>					
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-

4. IMMUNISATIONS

(Details kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer)

	<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>Booster and Re-vaccination</u>
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	208	38
Diphtheria/Pertussis	6	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus	7	304
Tetanus	11	257
Poliomyelitis Sabin	228	470
Measles	170	-
Rubella	83	-

5. FACTORIES ACT 1961

In accordance with the Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/73, Appendix 11 is set out as follows:

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1973 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT

OF SAMFORD IN THE COUNTY OF EAST SUFFOLK

Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	2	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	53	36	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	19	22	-	-
TOTAL	74	62	-	-

5.

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperatures (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	-	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	1	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK
(Sections 133 and 134) Nil

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(In accordance with Circular 1/73 Department of Health and Social Security,
dated 1st January 1973)

SERVICES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

"Para. 5" Water Supply

1. (a) PUBLIC SUPPLIES

The sources of water used in the public mains are:-

- (i) The two borewells at the Water Treatment Station at Lower Raydon.
- (ii) The borewell at Wenham Airfield.
- (iii) The borewell at Stoke-by-Nayland - West Suffolk Water Board.
(Supplying Shelley Priory area.)
- (iv) The three borewells at the Pumping Station at Belstead.

137 routine samples were taken and analysed during 1973. The results showed the water to be of excellent quality.

1. (b) PRIVATE SUPPLIES

45 samples were taken from private water supplies during the year. 35 showed evidence of minor pollution.

The private supply of the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, has been sampled regularly during the year and copies of the reports sent to the responsible department. All of the samples proved satisfactory.

1. (c)

The number of dwellinghouses and population receiving a public supply are:-

	Direct to the Houses	By means of stand- pipes	Estimated Population supplied
Arwarton	45	6	167
Belstead	84	5	251
Bentley	303	10	822
Brantham	634	4	1,795
Burstall	70	1	203
Capel St. Mary	824	6	2,421
Chattisham	45	4	141
Chelmondiston	431	14	1,263
Copdock	182	8	543
East Bergholt	887	12	2,575
Freston	62	1	176
Harkstead	126	-	331
Higham	55	-	155
Hintlesham	220	8	643
Holbrook	339	6	973
Holton St. Mary	72	1	208
Raydon	143	1	409
Shelley	17	1	51
Shotley	694	13	3,808
Sproughton	384	4	1,093
Stratford St. Mary	196	2	569
Stutton	301	3	842
Tattingstone	155	3	541
Washbrook	150	1	455
Wenham Magna	58	8	204
Wenham Parva	6	-	17
Wherstead	125	1	357
Woolverstone	88	-	655
TOTAL	6,696	123	21,668

1. (d) FLUORIDE CONTENT

(Figures kindly supplied by the Ipswich Corporation Water Undertaking)

Raydon Pumping Station No 1 Bore 0.35 p.p.m.

Wenham Auxiliary Pumping Station 0.76 p.p.m.

1. (e) PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AGAINST WELL WATER CYANOSIS

Number of samples taken	=	4
Sampled and found safe	=	2
Sampled and found unsafe	=	2

"Para. 6" Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

2. (a) EXISTING SEWERS

Parishes of:- Brantham (including East End), Capel St. Mary, Chelmondiston, Copdock, East Bergholt, Hintlesham, Holbrook, Shotley, Washbrook, Wenham Magna, Sproughton, Stutton.

2. (b) PARTLY SEWERED, FURTHER EXTENSIONS CONTEMPLATED

Parishes of:- Bentley, Harkstead (including Lower Holbrook), Woolverstone.

2. (c) PARTLY SEWERED, NO FURTHER EXTENSIONS CONTEMPLATED

Parish of:- Arwarton.

2. (d) NOT SEWERED BUT WHOLE OR PARTIAL SEWERAGE INTENDED

Parishes of:- Belstead, Burstall, Higham, Holton St. Mary, Raydon, Stratford St. Mary, Tattingstone, Wherstead.

2. (e) NOT SEWERED AND NO SEWERAGE CONTEMPLATED

Parishes of:- Chattisham, Freston, Shelley, Wenham Parva.

2. (f) IN PROGRESS

East Bergholt Sewage Disposal Works extension.
Capel St. Mary extension.
Stratford St. Mary village scheme.

"Para. 9" Services Under the Food and Drugs Act 1955

3. (a) MILK SUPPLIES

Examination of Milk Samples (Figures kindly supplied by East Suffolk County Council)

Statutory	10
Chemical Analysis	9
Biological	8
Antibiotics	22
<u>Milk Ring Tests</u>	46
Positive	-
Satisfactory	22

3. (b) THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS 1963

There are no pasteurisation plants in the District.

3. (c) FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

(i) The number of food premises, by type of business in the District.

(ii) The number of visits made.

(i) <u>No. of Premises</u>		(ii) <u>No. of Visits</u>	<u>Defects Found</u>	<u>Defects Removed</u>
18	Butchers' shops & mobile shops	36	1	1
22	Cafes, canteens, etc.	23	2	2
4	Fish Fryers & mobile shops	9	1	1
55	Grocers' shops & mobile shops	68	3	3
47	Ice-cream premises	61	2	2
45	Licensed premises	29	1	1
13	Milk distributors, etc.	15	-	-
1	Knackers yard	6	1	1
<hr/> 205 <hr/>		<hr/> 247 <hr/>	<hr/> 11 <hr/>	<hr/> 11 <hr/>

3. (d) POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry processing plants in the District.

4. HOUSING, PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER RELATED WORKS

Brief outline of the work carried out during the year:-

4. (a) HOUSING ACTS, 1957 - 64

No. of houses inspected	92
No. found unsatisfactory in any respect	77
No. rendered fit by:-	
(i) Informal action	8
(ii) Formal action	22
(iii) Repair of unfit houses	-
No. demolished or closed:-	
(i) Demolition Order	2
(ii) Informal action	5
(iii) Closing Order	3
(iv) Undertakings not to re-let	1
No. of families rehoused from unfit houses	12
New houses erected:-	
(i) By Local Authority	8
(ii) By Private Enterprise	279
No. of properties improved by Improvement Grants:-	
(i) Discretionary	37
(ii) Standard	33

4. (b) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 - 61

Complaints received and investigated	36
Resolved by:-	
(i) Formal action	-
(ii) Informal action	36

4. (c) OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1964

No. of premises on the Register	46
No. of visits made	123

4. (d) CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Number of caravan sites licensed 14

Number of visits made 27

4. (e) ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Number of establishments licensed 5

Number of visits made 10

4. (f) PETROLEUM REGULATIONS, 1928 AND 1936

Number of premises licensed 69

Number of visits made 31

4. (g) PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Number of premises treated for rats and mice:-

(i) Dwelling houses 758

(ii) Other Premises 29

4. (h) CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

(i) Number of derelict vehicles removed 5

(ii) Number of collections of bulky
rubbish from households 84

4. (i) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Type of collection - Backdoor - Skep system

Frequency of collection - weekly in all parishes

Method of disposal is by controlled tipping at two refuse
tips, one at Chelmondiston and one at Sproughton.

4. (j) SALVAGE COLLECTIONS FOR 1973

Annual table of tonnages collected and prices realised

The following table shows in detail the quantity and prices realised for the various items of salvaged materials collected and sold during 1973. The table for 1972 is also shown for comparison.

	1973				1972			
	Tons	Cwts.	f	p	Tons	Cwts.	f	p
Waste Paper - Mixed	130	1	1,529.	53	107	8	1,122.	08
Waste Paper - Newspaper	163	11	2,331.	11	134	9	1,719.	07
Waste Paper - Fibreboard	40	13	619.	30	42	11	524.	30
Scrap Iron - Heavy	-	-	-	-	3	12	22.	00
Scrap Iron - Light	-	-	-	-	1	3	1.	30
Rags	5	17	57.	50	7	13	76.	25
Sacking	1	15	11.	50	1	19	11.	70
	341	17	4,548.	94	298	15	3,476.	70
Stock in Hand	26	2	373.	09	35	9	409.	22
TOTAL	367	19	4,922.	03	334	4	3,885.	92